



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Rock Island District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Tazewell County, Illinois

Date: September 8, 2004

Expires: October 7, 2004

CEMVR-OD-P-2004-971

Section: 10/404

**Joint Public Notice
US Army Corps of Engineers
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Department of Natural Resources/Office of Water Resources**

1. Applicant. Tazewell County, 334 Elizabeth Street, Pekin, Illinois 61554.
2. Project Location. Section 4, Township 23 North, Range 7 West, near Manito, Tazewell County, Illinois; Illinois River mile 136.8.
3. Project Description. The applicant proposes to construct a public boat launch facility known as the 'Copperas Creek Boat Launch'. The purpose of the project is to provide the public with river access from the east shore of the Illinois River. This site will provide recreational boaters and anglers with convenient river access close to the Spring Lake Conservation Area. This site is on the left (east) riverbank of the LaGrange pool. Normal river elevation is 429.0 feet. 'Ordinary High Water' elevation is 439.5 feet. This area has historically been used for placement of dredge material along the riverbanks and on the floodplain. The site is on the riverside of the flood protection levee operated by the Spring Lake Drainage and Levee District. The top of the levee is at elevations 457 to 458 feet. An existing gravel road provides access over the levee for privately-owned riverside cabins and homes immediately south of the project site. The site is approximately 380 feet (north-south) along the shoreline, 360 feet (east-west) inland from the river, and 305 feet (north-south) near the levee.
 - a. Existing Wetland. A wetland delineation was performed onsite by the Corps of Engineers in April 1999, and re-verified onsite in June 2003. A depressional wetland was delineated approximately 0.2-acre in size. The depression is 250 feet long with variable widths of 25-to-60 feet. The wetland contains primarily emergent vegetation. The river shoreline is mature woodland. A few saplings and young trees were found in this depression. The soil is dark clay with very slow permeability. After rain or flood events, water will pond 1-to-2 feet deep in the depression for extended periods of time, 2 weeks or longer, sufficient to meet wetland hydrology. The US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory classifies this depression as Palustrine, Forested, Broad-leaved Deciduous, Seasonally Flooded. The edge of the depression is at elevation 442 feet with its lowest elevation at 440 feet. The wetland, as shown on the site plan sheet, was interpolated from an aerial photo visually plotted in 1999. The existing contours (dashed lines) 441 feet and 442 feet provide a more accurate representation of the location of the wetland.
 - b. Prior Review. In April 2002, Tazewell County submitted a permit application. A public notice was issued June 25, 2002, for comment. The boat ramp was originally proposed to be on the south (downstream) end of the site. Navigation safety concerns for recreational boaters and commercial tows were expressed by the Corps Illinois Waterway Office and the Illinois River Carriers' Association (IRCA). On this river bend, the navigation channel has over time migrated toward the left (east) bank. The channel migration has occurred due to erosion of the left bank, and depositions accumulating on the right (west) side of the channel. Erosion of the left bank is caused by the river's currents and wash from river traffic. The IRCA stated the boat ramp and dock, as proposed, sets on the bend where it would be very susceptible to being struck by tow boats making the turn northbound and southbound. The wheel wash of the boats making the turn would be in direct line of where the boat ramp and dock would set. Therefore, the original proposal was withdrawn pending modification of the site plans.

c. Current Review. The site plans were modified and submitted with a new application in July 2004. The boat ramp was relocated to the upstream (north) end of the site where the navigation channel remains stable and closer to its original alignment.

(1) Project Construction.

(a) Prior to any excavation work, the entire site will be bordered with silt fence. Illinois Department of Transportation Standards will be used for all temporary erosion control systems.

(b) Trees and stumps will be cut and excavated, and removed from site to be properly disposed in a non-wetland location.

(c) The main access road, on the riverside of the levee, will be regraded to be 24 feet wide and resurfaced with gravel. The road will curve to the right to the parking area. The site, including the wetland depression, will be cleared, regraded, and surfaced with gravel for automobile and trailer parking. Five streetlights will be installed throughout the site.

(d) Approximately 180 feet of the shoreline will be graded inland for the boat ramp and docks. The shoreline will be set inland 20 feet.

(e) The boat ramp will be constructed at the north (upstream) end of the site. This will be a two lane concrete ramp (121 feet long by 36 feet wide). The river end of the ramp will be at elevation 425 feet. The shore end of the ramp will be at elevation 441 feet. The ramp will be constructed of 6-inch thick concrete pavement over a 6-inch thick gravel base. The underwater section of the ramp will be pre-cast on-site and pushed or lifted into place. The above water section will be cast in place. A 6-inch high curb and toewall will be constructed along the side edges of the cast-in-place section. A cutoff wall will be constructed between the cast-in-place section and the underwater section. An anchor wall will be constructed at the top end of the cast-in-place section. A total of 154 tons of stone riprap, grade RR5, will be placed along the sides of the ramp.

(f) An 'L' shaped floating dock, 65 feet long by 5 feet wide, will be constructed south of the ramp. The dock will be equipped with approved flotation devices, anchors, decking, handrails, dock cushions, cleats, and wheels for seasonal removal. The dock will be handicap accessible. Posted handicapped parking will be provided adjacent to the dock. A 65-foot long x 5-foot wide launch-and-retrieve dock will be located along the south (downstream) side of the boat ramp. The launch-and-retrieve dock will be constructed in the same manner as the floating dock.

(g) Earth excavation will total 3670 cubic yards of cuts and 2870 cubic yards of fill. Waste excavation material will be used to fill voids left after tree stumps have been removed. Any excess waste excavation material will be placed on the south end of the site, then graded for proper drainage. The new slopes adjacent to the access roads, and other disturbed areas, not covered by gravel or paving, will be fertilized, seeded and mulched to establish permanent vegetative cover.

(2) Wetland Mitigation. The mitigation plans have not changed from the original proposal. In the northeast part of the site, a shallow water detention will be excavated to provide 0.2 acre of compensatory wetland mitigation. The bottom of the pond will be at elevation 440.0 feet. The water sources will be rainwater, rainwater runoff from adjacent areas, and river floodwater. The pond will temporarily store up to 3.0 feet of water at elevation 443.0 feet. Wetland ponding will be 2.0 feet deep at elevation 442.0 feet. Temporary ponding, over elevation 442.0 feet, will outlet at the north end of the detention. The wetland ponding will fluctuate with seasonal conditions. The ponds average length (north-south) is 135 feet, and the width (east-west) is 65 feet. The east end of the detention is 86 feet, at its closest point, to the toe of the levee. The applicant will be required to monitor the mitigation site for a period of 5 years or until wetland conditions have established. Annual monitoring reports will be required to be submitted to the Corps of Engineers.

NOTE: The attached plans were reduced in scale for public notice distribution. Complete, full sized, plans will be provided upon request. (see paragraph 11. of this public notice for contact information.)

4. Agency Review and Where to Reply.

a. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. The Department of the Army application is being processed under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

b. State of Illinois.

(1) Under the previous application no. CEMVR-OD-P-425790, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) issued State Section 401 Water Quality Certification on November 4, 2002, Log # C-0465-02. A new certification will be required for the current application. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR), jointly reviewed the previous application with the Corps of Engineers. The IDNR/OWR withdrew the application in January 2003 due to the navigation safety issues.

(2) The applicant has submitted a current application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certification or waiver indicates that IEPA believes the activity will not violate applicable water quality standards. The review by the IEPA is conducted in accordance with the Illinois water quality standards under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle C. The water quality standards provide for the IEPA to review individual projects by providing an antidegradation assessment, which includes an evaluation of alternatives to any proposed increase in pollutant loading that may result from this activity. The "Fact Sheet" containing the antidegradation assessment for this proposed project may be found on the IEPA's web site, at www.epa.state.il.us/public-notice/. In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the "Fact Sheet" corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and "Fact Sheet" will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. You may also obtain a copy of the "Fact Sheet" by contacting the IEPA at the address or telephone number shown below. Written comments specifically concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section, 1021 N. Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276. A copy of the written comments should be provided to the Corps of Engineers (see paragraph 11. of this public notice for address). If you have any questions please contact IEPA at (217) 782-3362."

(3) The applicant has submitted a current application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources, (IDNR/OWR) to be processed pursuant to an Act in Relation to the Regulation of the Rivers, Lakes and Streams of the State of Illinois, Chapter 615, ILCS 5 (Illinois Compiled Statutes 1999). Comments concerning the IDNR/OWR permit should be addressed to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702, with a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers (see paragraph 11. of this public notice for address). Mr. Mike Diedrichsen, IDNR/OWR (217/782-3863), may be contacted for additional information.

5. Historical/Archaeological. The Corps did not consult files of sites and surveys. This is a permit area whose footprint was cleared under IHPA Log Nos. 0205070003H-T and 0206270013H-T after a Phase I survey reported to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency under a Corps cover letter dated August 13, 2002, prior to the prospective issuance of Department of the Army Permit No. CEMVR-OD-P-425790. Therefore, it is the opinion of the Corps that issuance of the current permit will not affect historic properties because "the nature, scope, and magnitude of the work, and/or structures to be permitted are such that there is little likelihood that a historic property exists or may be affected" (33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C.3.b).

6. Endangered Species. District staff have performed a preliminary review of this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*) are Federally-listed Threatened species in Tazewell County. Woodlands along the major rivers are winter habitat for the eagle. The site is wooded, but few or no eagles have been observed roosting in this area. The aster is found in open areas on moist, sandy, floodplains and prairie wetlands along the Illinois River. The thick woodland canopy makes the project site unsuitable habitat for the aster. Based upon the information provided and available at this time, our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity is not likely to adversely affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat. While no consultation has been initiated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at this time, we are further coordinating this application with the FWS and the respective resource agencies through this public notice. Accordingly, our preliminary determination is subject to change should further information become available.

7. Dredge/Fill Material Guidelines. The evaluation of the impact of the proposed activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

8. Public Interest Review. The decision whether to issue the Corps permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

9. Who Should Reply. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. These statements should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. These statements should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.

10. Public Hearing Requests. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.

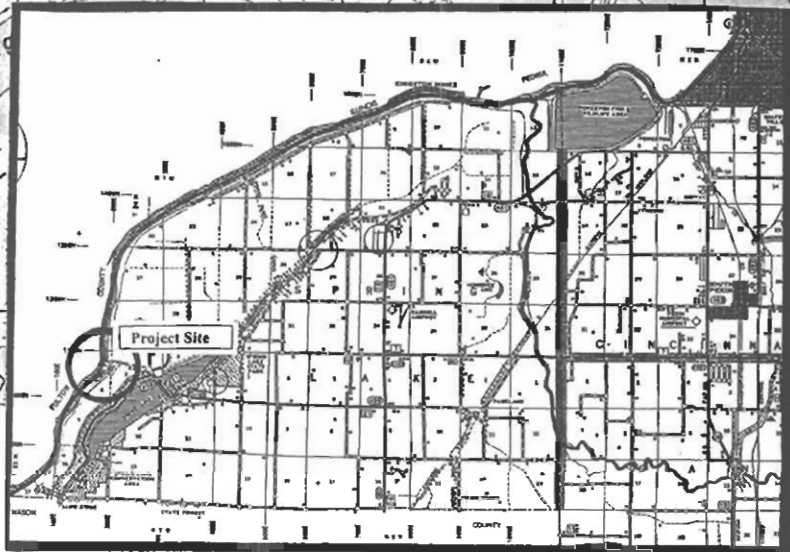
11. Reply to the Corps. Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-P, Clock Tower Building, Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. **Mr. Marlyn W. Schafer (309/794-5377)** may be contacted for additional information (email: marlyn.schafer@usace.army.mil).

Attach
Plan

Marlyn W. Schafer
Project Manager
Regulatory Division

REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page 1.

NOTICE TO EDITORS: This notice is provided as background information for your use in formatting news stories. This notice is not a contract for classified display advertising. For more information call the Rock Island District Public Affairs Office, 309/794-5274.



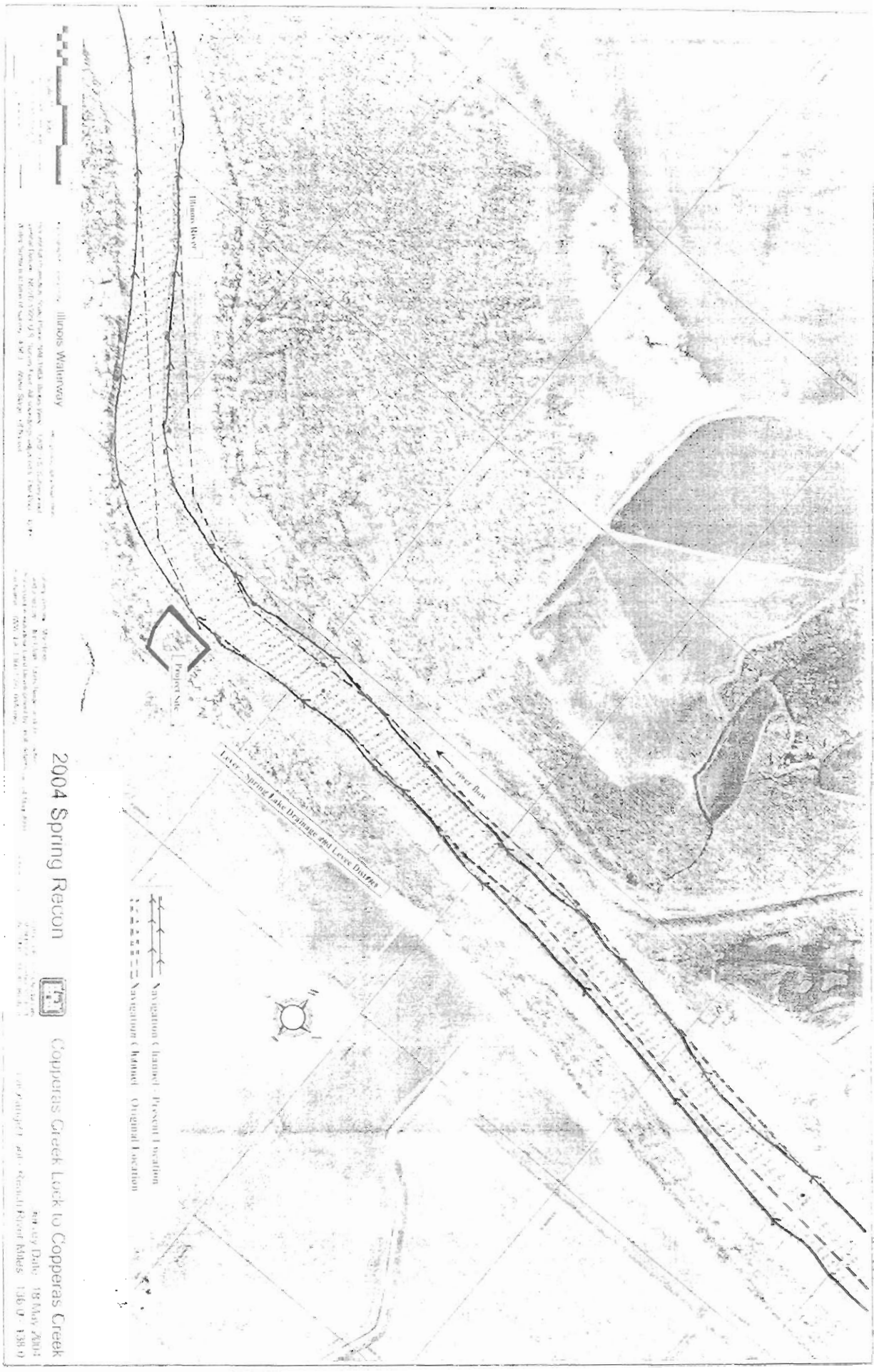
GENERAL VICINITY MAP

Project Site
2004-971

Fulton Co., Illinois
1:20623



CEMVR-OD-P-2004-971
Tazewell County, Illinois
Public Boat Launch Facility
Location Map
Sheet 1 of 4



2004 Spring Recon



Copperas Creek Lock to Copperas Creek

CEMVR-OD-P-2004-971
 Tazewell County, Illinois
 Public Boat Launch Facility
 Illinois River Navigation Channel
 Sheet 2 of 4

Map prepared by: [Name]
 Date: [Date]
 Project: [Project Name]

Map scale: 1 inch = 1 mile
 Map projection: NAD 83
 Map datum: NAD 83
 Map units: Feet

Map by Date: 18 May 2004
 Map by: [Name]
 Map by: [Name]

